



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/494,211	01/25/2000	Il-Ki Woo	003364.P035	3154

7590 02/23/2006
Blakely Sokoloff Taylor & Zafman LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025

EXAMINER

DOVE, TRACY MAE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1745

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/494,211

Applicant(s)

WOO ET AL.

Examiner

Tracy Dove

Art Unit

1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-10 and 14-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7, 15-22 and 26-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-10, 14 and 23-25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the communication filed on 11/8/05. Applicant's arguments have been considered, but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. Claims 3-10 and 14-32 are pending. Claims 1-2 and 11-13 have been canceled.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/9/05 has been entered.

Claim Objections

Claims 4 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: "copperand silver" should recite "copper and silver". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 5, 15-18, 20 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 5 has been amended to recite a Cu-alloy comprising at least boron or

Art Unit: 1745

cobalt and further comprising at least two of nickel, titanium, magnesium, tin, zinc, chromium, manganese, iron, vanadium, aluminum, zirconium, niobium, bismuth, lead, silicon, phosphorous or silver. Claim 15 has been amended to recite a Cu-alloy consisting essentially of copper, nickel, titanium and at least one material selected from the group consisting of boron and cobalt. Claims 16-18 also recite "at least one material selected from the group consisting of boron and cobalt". Claims 20 and 27 recite "wherein at least one of the three materials is selected from the group consisting of boron and cobalt". However, the specification does not provide support for the specific copper alloy compositions claimed in claims 5, 15-18, 20 and 27. Specifically, the specification does not disclose a copper alloy containing boron or cobalt and at least two other metals. There is no specific disclose in the specification of a copper alloy containing boron or cobalt and at least two other metals. Furthermore, the specification does not teach boron or cobalt are preferred or critical for the copper based alloy. Thus, it does not appear that applicant had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 5, 15-18, 20 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a Cu-based alloy comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of nickel, titanium, magnesium, tin, zinc, chromium, manganese, iron, vanadium, aluminum, zirconium, niobium, bismuth, lead, silver, silicon, phosphorus, cobalt or boron, does not reasonably provide enablement for a Cu-based alloy comprising at least boron or cobalt and further comprising at least two of nickel, titanium, magnesium, tin, zinc, chromium, manganese, iron, vanadium, aluminum, zirconium, niobium, bismuth, lead, silicon, phosphorus or silver. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or

Art Unit: 1745

with which it is most nearly connected, to make or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 19, 21 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)/103(a) as being anticipated by, and alternatively unpatentable over, Takagi et al., JP 11-339811.

Takagi teaches a copper alloy foil current collector for a secondary battery with high conductivity and high tensile strength. The current collector is made of a copper alloy having an alloy composition of 95 wt% copper and 0.01-5 wt% of at least one element selected from the group comprising iron (Fe), nickel (Ni), chromium (Cr), phosphorus (P), tin (Sn) and zinc (Zn). The thickness of the copper alloy foil current collector is 8-25 μm . The copper alloy foil current collector is preferably used in a lithium ion secondary battery using a carbon base material such as carbon as a negative active material (abstract). Two or more of iron, nickel, chromium, phosphorus, tin or zinc may be added to the copper alloy. Examples of the copper alloys are Cu-

Art Unit: 1745

Fe, Cu-Ni, Cu-Cr, Cu-Fe-P and Cu-Cr-Sn-Zn (0009). Example 2 in Table 1 teaches a current collector having a thickness of 10 μm comprising a copper alloy foil containing 0.3 wt% Cr, 0.25 wt% Sn and 0.2 wt% Zn. Example 1 teaches a copper alloy containing 0.1 wt% Fe and 0.03 wt% P. Example 3 teaches a copper alloy containing 0.1 wt% nickel.

Thus the claims are anticipated.

*

Claims 3-7, 19-22 and 26-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi et al., JP 11-086871.

Takagi teaches a copper foil current collector for a secondary battery. The current collector contains 99.9 or more wt% copper and 0.02 wt% or less of at least one of P, Pb, Fe, Sn, Zn, Ni, Bi, Ag, Ti and/or Co. A negative electrode is obtained by applying a paste-like material including carbon or graphite to the current collector (abstract). The collector is 10-20 micrometers thick (0010). The secondary battery may be a lithium ion battery.

Takagi does not explicitly teach a copper alloy comprising the recited weight percentages of each element contained in the copper alloy.

However, the invention as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because Takagi teaches a copper alloy foil may be used as the anode current collector. Takagi teaches that copper may be alloyed with materials such as P, Pb, Fe, Sn, Zn, Ni, Bi, Ag, Ti and/or Co. Thus, Takagi suggests a copper alloy foil wherein the copper alloy comprises at least two (or at least three) additional materials such as P, Pb, Fe, Sn, Zn, Ni, Bi, Ag, Ti and/or Co. Takagi does not disclose any specific copper alloy

Art Unit: 1745

composition having two or more additional elements. However without any showing of critically, the claimed Cu-based alloy foil is considered obvious in view of Takagi.

Regarding the claimed weight percentages, the courts have ruled where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. In re Swain et al., 33 CCPA 1250, 156 F.2d 239, 70 USPQ 412. The courts have held that a limitation merely with respect to proportions in a composition of matter or process will not support patentability unless such limitation is “critical”. Minerals Separation, Ltd. v. Hyde, 242 U.S. 261 (1916). Furthermore, the courts have ruled that discovery of an optimum value of a result effective variable in a known process is ordinarily within the skill of the art. In re Antonie, 559 F.2d 618, 195 USPQ 6 (CCPA 1977). Furthermore, the courts have ruled that product-by-process limitations, in the absence of unexpected results, are obvious (In re Fessman). Thus, the limitation “produced by a plating process” is considered obvious in view of the prior art.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 3-10 and 14-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

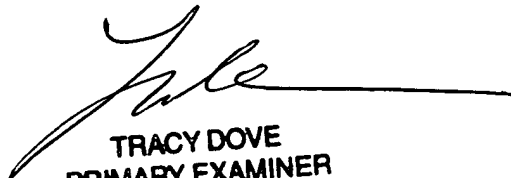
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tracy Dove whose telephone number is 571-272-1285. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (9:00-7:30).

Art Unit: 1745

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pat Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



TRACY DOVE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

February 21, 2006